

Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Demonstration Grant Abstract

Maryland

The goal of this demonstration project is to transition children from PRTFs to the community. This application will allow Maryland to implement community-based Medicaid-funded services for youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED). These services will follow a wraparound service delivery model. These children would otherwise only be eligible for Medicaid-funded services in a PRTF as a family of one. The availability of community services for these youth will enable them to transition out of a PRTF and improve or maintain their functional levels through community-based services.

The project will expand Medicaid eligibility to up to 150 children. Once this expansion population becomes eligible for Medicaid services in the community, they will access specialty mental health and community-based services under a high fidelity, wraparound delivery model.

The wraparound model (MD-Wrap) is a family-driven, community-based, inter-agency cooperative model. Each child's plan of care is tailored to that child and family's individual needs and builds on the strengths of the child, his or her family, and the community. Under this model, a Care Management Entity (CME) will receive a set payment rate in exchange for delivering a specific package of specialty mental health services to children and youth who voluntarily elect this service delivery option. Additionally, the CME(s) may use the rate to provide additional services, with the intention of preventing the need for more intensive services. Fidelity to the MD-Wrap model will be monitored using the Wraparound Fidelity Index.

MD-Wrap is a part of Maryland's Systems of Care Initiative (SOCI) targeted to the youth in highest need of intensive services. SOCI connects all service delivery systems (mental health, substance abuse, somatic health, education, juvenile services, child welfare, and others) to create a seamless service delivery system for Maryland's youth and provides the larger context for MD-Wrap. The demonstration project will assist Maryland in furthering the goals of: 1) changing financing structures; 2) changing provider networks; 3) creating a locus of management accountability for this deep-end population; 4) providing intensive care management; 5) providing training; 6) tracking outcomes; and, 6) managing utilization.

A descriptive evaluation design will be used to better understand the characteristics and experiences of the children and families for whom MD-Wrap is an effective intervention in transitioning from a PRTF to the community; the development of community-based services as a part of the service system; and, the cost of project implementation. Functional outcomes to be addressed will include elements which capture restrictiveness of service settings; improvements in functioning; school attendance, performance, and/or participation in vocational activities; adjudication of offenses; child/youth, family, and caregiver satisfaction with services; and, access to appropriate health care services.